



Defense Information Systems Agency

A Combat Support Agency

Security Clearances

Don Dereberry
Chief, Security Operations
Defense Information Systems Agency
13 June 2009

Security Clearance Process

- **Investigation**
 - **Single-Scope background Investigation**
 - **Access National Agency Check with Written Inquiries**
 - **Periodic reinvestigations**
- **Adjudication**
 - **Standard guidelines within the Department**
 - **Whole Person concept**
- **Access**
 - **Controlled and granted by Agency**
 - **May be interim**

Security Clearance

- **DEFINITION:** A determination by an authorized adjudication facility that the employee is suitable for access to classified information
 - Determination made after review of completed background investigation
 - Interim security clearance determinations can be authorized
- **THIRTEEN ADJUDICATIVE GUIDELINES**
 - Implemented 1 September 2006
 - Provided more detail on disqualifying and mitigating issues
 - Incorporated the Smith Amendment and Bond Amendment
- **KEY FACTORS:**
 - Trustworthiness
 - Character
 - Judgment

Adjudication of a Security Clearance

- **Evaluation of information in the background investigation**
 - **Nature, extent and seriousness of the conduct**
 - **Circumstances surrounding the conduct, to include knowledgeable participation**
 - **Frequency and recency of the conduct**
 - **Individual's age and maturity at the time of the conduct**
 - **The extent to which participation is voluntary**
 - **The presence or absence of rehabilitation and other permanent behavioral changes**
 - **The motivation of the conduct**
 - **The potential for pressure, coercion, exploitation or duress**
 - **The likelihood of continuance or reoccurrence**

Adjudication of a Security Clearance

- **Considerations when evaluating information:**
 - **Voluntarily reported the information**
 - **Was truthful and complete in responding to questions**
 - **Sought assistance and followed professional guidance, where appropriate**
 - **Resolved or appears likely to favorably resolve the security concern**
 - **Has demonstrated positive changes in behavior and employment**
 - **Should have his/her access temporarily suspended pending final adjudication of the information**

Adjudicative Guidelines

- **ALLEGIANCE TO U.S**
- **FOREIGN INFLUENCE**
- **FOREIGN PREFERENCE**
- **SEXUAL BEHAVIOR**
- **PERSONAL CONDUCT**
- **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**
- **ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION**
- **DRUG INVOLVEMENT**
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS**
- **CRIMINAL CONDUCT**
- **HANDLING PROTECTED INFORMATION**
- **OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES**
- **USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS**

Adjudicative Guidelines

- **Allegiance to the US**
 - Are you loyal to this country?
 - Do you support activities that violate constitutional rights
 - Do you support activities involved in espionage, sabotage, treason, etc.
- **Foreign Influence**
 - Close relationship with non-US citizens to include family
 - Pertains to situations where heightened risk blackmail or coercion
- **Foreign Preference**
 - Dual citizenship
 - Willingness to fight for another country
 - Keeping foreign passports and/or owning foreign property
- **Sexual Behavior**
 - High risk, illegal acts; acts in public showing lack of discretion
- **Alcohol Consumption**
 - Diagnosis of alcoholism or alcohol dependent

Adjudicative Guidelines

- **Financial Considerations**
 - Not paying your bills
 - Bankruptcy, loan defaults, failure to pay taxes
- **Drug Involvement**
 - Any use of illegal drugs when already possessing a security clearance
 - Frequent or recent use
 - Arrest for possession, sale, intent or actual distribution
- **Personal Conduct**
 - Not providing full and truthful answers on your security forms
 - Violation of written or recorded commitment (condition of employment)
 - Association with persons involved in criminal activity
- **Outside Activities**
 - Working for a foreign government, foreign national person, foreign company
 - Not reporting this to security

Adjudicative Guidelines

- **Use of Information Technology Systems**
 - Using government computers for personal business
 - Pornography
 - Software license pirating
- **Psychological Conditions**
 - Diagnosis by authorized person of mental health defect
 - Including but not limited to emotionally unstable, irresponsible, dysfunctional, violent, paranoid or bizarre behavior
- **Criminal Conduct**
 - A single serious offense or multiple lesser offenses
 - May affect you even if charges were dropped
- **Handling Protected Information**
 - Committing a Security Violation
 - Compromising classified information
 - Allowing sensitive yet unclassified information to be compromised

Mitigation of Issues

- **Mitigation is lessening the degree by which the issues affect you currently**
- **Mitigation can be determined by:**
 - **Actions you take to ensure the issue is addressed fully**
 - **Actions you take to ensure it doesn't happen again**
 - **Changes in your lifestyle or behavior that indicate it won't happen again**
 - **Time**

Trends within DISA

- **Financial Difficulties**
 - 40% of suspended employees
 - Most debt incurred 2Yrs prior or more
 - None reported debt problems to Security
- **Drug/Alcohol Abuse**
 - 40% of suspended employees
 - Failed urinalysis
 - Arrest, either previous unreported or current unreported
- **Personal Conduct**
 - 8% of suspended employees
 - Failure to comply with security processing
 - Failure to fully disclose issue which was subsequently uncovered through an investigation
 - Most attempted to minimize an issue, lack of candor or full disclosure

Key Points

- **Be boring**
 - **Avoid situations where no good can come from it**
- **Be truthful**
 - **Don't try and hide or minimize an issue**

